

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 176

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: GRIVAS' FUNERAL

REF: NICOSIA 163 AND 149

SUMMARY: GRIVAS' FUNERAL GOES OFF WITHOUT INCIDENT. NO GOCYPRUS REP PRESENT. RIGHT-WING POLITICIANS EXPLOIT OCCASION WITH HEADY ENOSIS RHETORIC AND INDIRECT ATTACKS ON GOVT. GOVT REACTS CAUTIOUSLY TO EOKA-B "SUSPENSION" OF ACTIVITY. END SUMMARY

1. GREEK CYPRIOTS BURIED THEIR TROUBLE-SOME LEGEND, GEORGE GRIVAS-DHIGENIS, IN HIS LIMASSOL HIDEOUT WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. NO INDICENTS MARRED THE OCCASION, DESPITE LARGE CROWD WHICH MAY HAVE INCLUDED 100,000 OR MORE. NO GOCYPRUS REP ATTENDED, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF PRESENCE OF TWO DEFROCKED BISHOPS (YENNADIOS AND KYPRIANOU) BUT MORE LIKELY TO AVOID DANGER OF FLARE-UP. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT POLICE PREVENTED CLERIDES, WHO HAD

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RECENTLY LED EFFORT CONDEMN VIOLENCE IN HOUSE AND HAD THREATENED

HAVE HOUSE BRAND GRIVAS AS "MURDERER", FROM PAYING RESPECTS ON JAN 29.) GREECE WAS PROMINENTLY REPRESENTED: AMB LAGACOS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES KYRIACOPOULOS, NATIONAL GUARD (NG) COMMANDER DENISIS, CONTINGENT COMMANDER KONDYLIS, AND LARGE PANOPLY OFFICERS. NG PROVIDED HONOR GUARD AND MILITARY BAND FOR FUNERAL MARCHES. MRS. GRIVAS ALSO CAME.

2. HOWEVER, GRIVAS' FUNERAL WAS SUPREMELY DAY FOR VAST (AND ORDERLY) THRONGS OF SIMPLE PEOPLE TO PAY LAST RESPECTS TO HERO OF EOKA LIBERATION STRUGGLE. ESEA/EOKA/EOKA-B LEADERSHIP DRAPED WHOLE AFFAIR WITH HEAVY MANTLE OF ENOSIS RHETORIC AND POLITICKING. ESEA PRESIDENT VASILIADES GAVE FUNERAL ORATION, EXTOLING GOAL OF ENOSIS AND CHASTISING UNNAMED "PHARISEES AND HYPROCRITES" WHO SPOKE OF CYPRIOT "CONSCIENCE" AND AGAINST "VIOLENCE" IN SERVICE OF ENOSIS STRUGGLE. BISHOP KYPRIANOU CALLED GRIVAS "ONLY ETHNARCH" OF PEOPLE AND SUMMONED GREECE (BY NAME, PRES GIZIKIS AND ARCHBISHOP SERAPHEIM) TO "NOT ONLY OCCUPY ITSELF WITH TOURISM AND OTHER PROBLEMS" BUT "EMBRACE CHILDREN OF CYPRUS" AS WELL. SPEAKING FOR ENOSIS FIGHTERS (AND HIS OWN OBVIOUS AMBITIONS) INDEPENDENT DEPUTY NICOS SAMPSON ASKED GOGREECE REPS TO CARRY SAME MESSAGE TO ATHENS, PLEDGING IN FULSOME, TEARY RHETORIC THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD "CONTINUE FIGHT FOR ENOSIS WITH EVERY SACRIFICE". UNNAMED REPRESENTATIVE OF STILL ANONYMOUS EOKA-B COMMANDER SPOKE BRIEFLY.

3. SAMPSON'S "MAKHI" EXPLOITED GOVT'S NONATTENDANCE AT FUNERAL; RAN PHOTO OF SAMPSON PLACING COPY OF "MAKHI" IN CASKET WITH GRIVAS. ALSO HIT GOV'T RADIO/TV FOR SKIMPY COVERAGE OF HISTORICAL EVENT (THIS IS PARTLY TRUE). ALL PAPERS HAVE COMMENTED ON AFTERMATH OF GRIVAS' DEATH, BUT LEFTISTS AVOIDED COMMENT ON DEATH OR ON GRIVAS. PRO-GOVT "PHILELEFTHEROS" HAS WELCOMED MAKARIOS' LENIENCY MEASURES AND EOKA-B ANNOUNCEMENT RE CESSATION ACTIVITY; PAPER HOPES EOKA-B WILL BE DISSOLVED SO GREEK CYPRIOTS CAN RESTORE UNITY AND CALM WITHIN RANKS TO FACE "KNOWN ENEMY" (THE TURKS). IN SIMILAR VEIN COMMUNIST "HARAVGLI" ECHOED AKEL ANNOUNCEMENT OF JAN 30 STRESSING NEED FOR EOKA-B RESPOND MORE FULLY TO MAKARIOS GESTURES. LYSSARIDES' LEFTIST "TA NEA", CONCEDED THAT GRIVAS' DEATH WAS HISTORIC EVENT, CALLED FOR DEMOCRATIC CONFRONTATION ALL FORCES IN LOCAL ELECTIONS JUNE AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAPER COULD NOT RPT NOT RESIST CARPING AT CONDUCT OF FUNERAL BY ESEA, AND WORKED OVER IDEA THAT TWO GREEK ARMY OFFICERS, MAJOR KAROUSOS AND COL. PAPAPOSTOLOU (REPORTED MASTERMIND OF 1970 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND, POSSIBLY, MURDER OF YERORKATZIS) ARE NOW IN EOKA-B LEADERSHIP. TURK CYPRIOT PRESS REMAINS DUBIOUS THAT GRIVAS DEATH WILL CHANGE THINGS VERY MUCH (ASIDE FROM PERHAPS UNIFYING GREEK FRONT), THOUGH ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN" HAS POINTED OUT THAT MAKARIOS HAS NOW LOST ONE OF MAIN

ARGUMENTS FOR MAINTAINING TOUGH POSTURE TOWARD TURK CYPRIOT
COMMUNITY.

4. PIO HAS REACTED CAUTIOUSLY TO EOKA-B ANNOUNCEMENT,
DANGLING PROSPECT OF FURTHER LENIENCY MEASURES AND CALLING
ON EOKA-B TO GIVE FULLER RESPONSE TO ARCHBISHOP'S
INITIATIVE. PIO ADDED THAT NOT ONE OF 70 WANTED PERSONS
HAS SURRENDERED, AND THAT AT EXPIRATION OF FIVE-DAY PERIOD
(FEB 2) GOVT WILL RESUME EFFORT ARREST THEM.

5. COMMENT: ALL PARTIES CAN TAKE REAL SATISFACTION THAT
GRIVAS BURIED WITHOUT INCIDENT. ENOSIS CAMP HAD ITS DAY
OF GLORY, WITH MAJOR PODIUM UNSULLIED BY PRESENCE OF
MAKARIOS OFFICIALS. IN ANNALS OF BIZARRE VIP BURIALS, THIS
ONE MUST RANK HIGH: A FUNERAL CONDUCTED BY DEFROCKED BISHOP,
ANNOUNCED AND OBSERVED BY THE STATE (FLAGS AT HALF MAST, ALL
SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS CLOSED, SOMBER MUSIC ON RADIO) WHERE NO
REPRESENTATIVE OF STATE WAS PRESENT BUT NEIGHBORING STATE TURNED OUT
IN FORCE. (TURKISH EMBA
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